LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A fuel distribution system for use with an engine, said system comprising:

a fuel reservoir;

electrically operated fuel pump having an electrical circuit;

a fluid flow path disposed between said fuel reservoir and an engine, said fuel pump disposed in said fluid flow path;

a fuel filter selectively disposed in said fluid flow path; and

electrical conductor for selectively closing the electrical circuit of said pump to allow operation thereof, said electrical conductor having an inoperative position and an operative position, whereby the electrical circuit of said fuel pump is closed when said electrical conductor achieves said operative position, said electrical conductor maintaining said operative position when said fuel filter is disposed in said fluid flow path, said electrical conductor maintaining said inoperative position when said fuel filter is removed from said fluid flow path.

2. (Previously Presented) The fuel distribution system of claim 1, wherein said electrical conductor is a resilient member having two ends, a first one of said ends affixed to a filter housing, a second one of said ends movable between said inoperative position and said operative position, said electrical conductor being grounded.

3. (Original) The fuel distribution system of claim 2, wherein said electrical conductor comprises a spring clip.

4. (Original) The fuel distribution system of claim 1, wherein said fuel pump includes a fuel pump housing, said fuel pump being grounded to said fuel pump housing.

5. (Original) The fuel distribution system of claim 4, wherein said electrical

conductor contacts said pump housing in said operative position.

6. (Previously Presented) The fuel distribution system of claim 5, wherein said electrical conductor comprises a resilient member having two ends, a first one of said ends being affixed to a filter housing, a second one of said ends being moveable between said inoperative position and said operative position, said electrical conductor being grounded.

7. (Original) An apparatus for preventing non-filtered fuel from reaching an engine connected via a fluid flow path to a fuel tank, said apparatus comprising:

an electrically operated fuel pump disposed in the fluid flow path, said pump in fluid communication with the fuel tank and the engine, said pump having a housing;

a fuel filter selectively disposed in the fluid flow path, said filter in fluid communication with said fuel tank, said pump, and the engine, said fuel filter being positioned upstream of the engine; and

an electrical conductor connected to ground, said electrical conductor having an inoperative position and an operative position, whereby said electrical conductor grounds said fuel pump in said operative position, said electrical conductor maintaining said operative position when said fuel filter is disposed in said fluid flow path, said electrical conductor maintaining said inoperative position when said fuel filter is removed from said fluid flow path.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said electrical conductor is a resilient member having two ends, a first one of said ends being affixed to a filter housing, a second one of said ends being moveable between said inoperative position and said operative position.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said electrical conductor comprises a spring clip.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said fuel pump is grounded to said pump housing, wherein said electrical conductor contacts said pump housing in said operative position, and wherein said electrical conductor is out of contact with said pump housing in said inoperative position.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a filter housing sized to accommodate said fuel filter and said fuel pump, wherein insertion of said filter into said filter housing actuates said electrical conductor into said operative position, and wherein removal of said filter allows said electrical conductor to return to said inoperative position.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a filter housing sized to accommodate said fuel filter and said fuel pump, wherein insertion of said filter into said filter housing actuates said electrical conductor into said operative position, and wherein removal of said filter allows said electrical conductor to return to said inoperative position.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for preventing non-filtered fuel from reaching an engine in a vehicle, comprising:

a fuel tank;

an electrically operated fuel pump having a housing and an electrical circuit;

a fluid flow path disposed between said fuel tank and said engine, said fuel pump disposed in said fluid flow path;

a fuel filter selectively disposed in said fluid flow path; and

electrically conductive means for selectively closing said electrical circuit of said pump to allow operation thereof, wherein said conductive means closes the electrical circuit of said pump when said fuel filter is disposed in said fluid flow path.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said electrically conductive means comprises a resilient member, said resilient member having two ends, a first one of said ends affixed to a filter housing, a second one of said ends being movable between an inoperative position in which the electrical circuit of said fuel pump is open, and an operative position in which the electrical circuit of said fuel pump is closed.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said pump is grounded to said housing.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said electrically conductive means contacts said pump housing in said operative position.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said electrically conductive means is connected to ground.

18. (Original) A method of preventing non-filtered fuel from reaching an engine when a fuel filter is not operably positioned in a fluid flow path upstream from the engine, said method comprising:

providing an electrically operated fuel pump having an open electrical circuit; and

providing an electrical conductor moveable to complete said electrical circuit, said electrical conductor moved into position to complete said electrical circuit when said fuel filter is operably positioned in the fluid flow path.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said step of providing an electrically operated fuel pump comprises providing an electrically operated fuel pump having a fuel pump housing, said fuel pump grounded to said housing, and wherein said method further comprises the step of connecting said electrical conductor to ground.